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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00
	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-01	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00
	ANHR-01	WHA-01	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	UTED-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	JUSE-00	LAB-01
	L-00	ADS-00	MMP-00	M-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NRCE-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00
	ASDS-01	IIP-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02
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R 301324Z NOV 99
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9353
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 005588

DEPARTMENT - FOR S/CT FOR REAP

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PTER, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINA: 1999 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 204472

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THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES ARE KEYED TO PARAGRAPH 3 IN
REFTEL.

A. THERE WERE NO ACTS OF TERRORISM IN ARGENTINA DURING 1999. THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE 1992 BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY AND THE 1994 TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE ARGENTINE-ISRAELI COMMUNITY CENTER (AMIA) CONTINUED. IN MAY, THE SUPREME COURT (THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICE FOR THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1992 BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY) RELEASED A REPORT WHICH REPORTED THE COURT'S CONCLUSION THAT THE BOMBING WAS THE RESULT OF A CAR BOMB WHICH EXPLODED OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY. THE COURT ALSO FORMALLY DETERMINED THAT ISLAMIC JIHAD WAS RESPONSIBLE

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FOR THE BOMBING, BASED ON CLAIMS MADE BY THE GROUP FOLLOWING THE BOMBING AND ON SIMILARITIES WITH OTHER ATTACKS CLAIMED BY THE GROUP. THE COURT FOLLOWED UP IN EARLY SEPTEMBER BY ISSUING AN INTERNATIONAL ARREST WARRANT FOR ISLAMIC JIHAD LEADER IMAD MUGHNIYAH.

IN THE AMIA CASE, THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE DETERMINED IN FEBRUARY THAT THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO HOLD AN IRANIAN WOMAN (NASRIM MOKHTARI) LONG SOUGHT FOR POSSIBLE COMPLICITY IN THE BOMBING. AT THE SAME TIME, THE JUDGE INDICATED IN HIS REPORT THAT ISLAMIC JIHAD COULD WELL HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE AMIA ATTACK AS WELL, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT FORMALLY DECLARE IT SO. IN JULY, CHARGES WERE BROUGHT AGAINST ALL THE SUSPECTS CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE AMIA BOMBING. LIFE SENTENCES WERE REQUESTED IN THE TWO MOST SERIOUS CASES. THE TRIALS HAVE YET TO BEGIN IN ANY OF THE CASES.

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B. THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT NEITHER RECEIVED NOR REQUESTED THE EXTRADITION OF ANY SUSPECTED TERRORISTS IN 1999. HOWEVER, AS MENTIONED ABOVE, IN SEPTEMBER, THE SUPREME COURT ISSUED AN INTERNATIONAL ARREST WARRANT FOR ISLAMIC JIHAD LEADER IMAD MUGHNIYAH. QE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED POST EFFORTS TO HAVE AL-GAMA'AT AL-ISLAMIYYAH (IG) MEMBER AL-SAID ((MOQLIS)) EXTRADITED FROM URUGUAY TO EGYPT.

C. DISCUSSION CONTINUES IN ARGENTINA ABOUT POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM TO ALLOW THE USE OF PAID INFORMANTS, PLEA BARGAINING, AND UNDERCOVER AGENTS. MOST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND MANY PROMINENT JUDGES FAVOR SUCH CHANGES. HOWEVER, PAST ABUSES OF POLICE POWER DURING THE MILITARY REGIMES CONTINUE TO COLOR THE IMPRESSIONS OF MUCH OF THE POPULATION. IT REMAINS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHEN, IF EVER, SUCH CHANGES WILL OCCUR.

D. THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT STRONGLY DEPLORES TERRORIST ATTACKS WHEREVER THEY HAPPEN.

E. THE GOA CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS WITH ITS REGIONAL NEIGHBORS TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA WHERE ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, AND PARAGUAY CONVERGE. TRILATERAL COOPERATION CONTINUES AT THE MINISTERIAL AND AT LOWER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. THE GOA HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN INTEGRATING THE URUGUAYAN SECURITY SERVICES INTO THE REGIONAL CT EFFORT.

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 THE GOA REMAINED VERY ACTIVE IN 1999 TRYING TO PUSH
 THROUGH THE CREATION OF THE INTERAMERICAN COMMITTEE ON
 COUNTER TERRORISM IN THE OAS. INTERIOR MINISTER CORACH
 TOOK PERSONAL CHARGE OF THIS ARGENTINE INITIATIVE AND SAW
 IT COME TO FRUITION AT THE NOVEMBER OAS PLENARY IN MIAMI.

F. THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA DOES NOT SUPPORT
 INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS IN ANY MANNER.

G. THE GOA MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF A
 TERRORIST-SUPPORTING COUNTRY ON A TERRORISM ISSUE.

H. THE GOA IS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO TERRORISM. THE STEPS IT
 TOOK DURING THE YEAR TO CONTINUE ITS INVESTIGATIONS INTO
 THE TWO TERRORIST BOMBINGS IN BUENOS AIRES (SUCH AS THE
 INTERNATIONAL ARREST WARRANT ISSUED AGAINST THE ISLAMIC
 JIHAD LEADER MENTIONED ABOVE) SHOW THAT ARGENTINA WILL
 REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM.

I. DURING 1999, THE U.S. PROVIDED ARGENTINA WITH
 INFORMATION IT REQUESTED REGARDING CERTAIN TERRORIST
 GROUPS. THAT INFORMATION WAS USED IN THE DECISIONS MADE
 BY THE SUPREME COURT IN THE ISRAELI EMBASSY BOMBING CASE
 AND THE INVESTIGATING JUDGE IN THE AMIA CASE. THE USG
 CONTINUES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE GOA IN THE TRI-BORDER
 AREA. WE ALSO WORKED CLOSELY WITH THEM ON THE
 DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR INITIATIVE TO CREATE THE

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 ACTION SCT-00

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 005588

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INTERAMERICAN COUNTER TERRORISM COMMITTEE IN THE OAS.
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